

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01169 311742Z

61

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /074 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6691

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 1169

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TP, US, FR

SUBJ: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

1. SUMMARY. FRENCH HAVE ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, BUT STILL NO GSTP REPLY TO US OFFER ALONG SIMILAR LINES. PROPOSE SEND EMBOFF TO SAO TOME TO OBTAIN GSTP DECISION. ACTION REQUESTED: SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND AUTHORIZATION FOR EMBOFF TO AGREE ON TEXT WITH GSTP. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH EMBASSY LIBREVILLE PUBLISHED "JOINT COMMUNIQUE" JULY 28 ANNOUNCING ESTABLISHING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL BETWEEN GOF AND GOVERNMENT OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (GSTP) "IN ORDER DEVELOP RELATIONS OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP AND PROMOTE SATISFACTORY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH REGARD TO NEEDS OF POPULATION."

3. ACCORDING FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO REPRESENTED GOG AT JULY 12 SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES, HE CONVEYED TO DA COSTA AT THAT TIME ESSENTIALLY SAME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 01169 311742Z

PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER, I.E.,

TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND TO ACCREDIT AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN LIBREVILLE. HAVING RECEIVED NO REPLY, HE SENT MEMBER OF HIS STAFF TO SAO TOME OVER PAST WEEKEND, AND LATTER SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING GSTP AGREEMENT BOTH TO FRENCH PROPOSAL AND TO PROMPT ISSUANCE OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

4. AMBASSADOR HAS NO IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION IN SAO TOME AND ASSUMES HE WILL HAVE TO SEND MEMBER OF STAFF TO ISLAND AGAIN TO MAKE FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

5. FRENCH EXPECT CONSULT WITH UNDP REPRESENTATIVE HERE (WHO ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE) BEFORE DEVELOPING PLANS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. GOF INDEPENDENCE GIFT TO GSTP CONSISTED OF "SOME CARS" URGENTLY NEEDED TO HANDLE GUESTS INVITED TO CELEBRATIONS, BUT ADDITIONAL PROMISES ARE IN GENERAL TERMS ONLY.

6. COMMENT: LIKE FRENCH, WE ARE STILL WITHOUT REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S LETTER PROPOSING OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GSTP. SINCE MLSTP OFFICE IN LIBREVILLE HAS BEEN AT LEAST TEMPORARILY CLOSED DOWN (AND NOT YET REPLACED BY DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION), BELIEVE WE WILL HAVE TO FOLLOW FRENCH EXAMPLE AND SEND EMBOFF TO SAO TOME IN ORDER EXTRACT GSTP DECISION ON PRESIDENT'S OFFER.

7. UNLESS DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES OBJECTION, WE WILL THEREFORE PLAN TO SEND EMBOFF TO SAO TOME SHORTLY AFTER AMBASSADOR HAS PRESENTED CREDENTIALS IN LIBREVILLE. IF PRESENTATION HERE TAKES PLACE NEXT WEEK AS ANTICIPATED, EMBOFF WOULD FLY TO SAO TOME ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, WHICH IS BEST AVAILABLE WEEKLY SERVICE. ALTERNATIVELY, IF CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION HERE DELAYED, TRIP WOULD BE DEFERRED ONE WEEK TO AUGUST 15.

8. IN ADDITION TO SEEKING GSTP AGREEMENT TO PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL, EMBOFF SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO AGREE TO JOINT COMMUNIQUE ALONG LINES OF GOF-GSTP RELEASE SINCE AD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LIBREV 01169 311742Z

REFERENDUM TEXT WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER TRIP TO SAO TOME TO CONVEY AGREEMENT TO GSTP. TO THIS END, WOULD APPRECIATE (A) DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTIONS ON APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE AND (B) AUTHORIZATION FOR EMBOFF TO SETTLE LANGUAGE ON THE SPOT WITH GSTP. DATE FOR PUBLICATION OF COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE SET FAR ENOUGH IN ADVANCE TO PERMIT SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE IN SAO TOME AND WASHINGTON. STEIGMAN

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